

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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The following is a summary of Soviet and KVP military activities observed prior to 1 October 1954.

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A. Soviet Troop Dispositions, Movements and Exercises.

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1. Personnel Exchange Program:

According to an unconfirmed report, the first shipments of discharges departed on 28 and 20 September. Shuttle train [] went from Jueterbog to Guben on 27 September and shuttle train [] to Kuestrin on 29 September. Both trains were empty.

2. First Guards Mechanized Army:

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Units of the three divisions of the army assembled for major exercises in the Laussnitz Heath area west and southwest of Koenigsbrueck after 23 September. On 17 September, the engineer battalion of the 9th Tank Division returned to Riesa from the Muehlberg area.

3. Second Guards Mechanized Army:

- a. 31st AAA Division: Elements of the division returned in one shipment from Wustrow to Velten on 22 September.
- b. 9th Guards Tank Division: After 24 September elements of the Heavy Tank and SP Regiment from Neubrandenburg and artillery units from Neustrelitz engaged in exercises in an area north of Penzlin and in the Wesenburg-Mirow area respectively.
- c. 12th Guards Tank Division: The Neuruppin posts of the division were only lightly occupied on 1 October after major elements had departed on 29 and 30 September.

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4. Third Guards Mechanized Army:

The army headquarters, army troops, and the 14th Guards Mechanized and 6th Guards Tank Divisions were still in the Jueterbog-Luchenwalde area prior to 25 September. Routine training and firing practice was held in the Forst Zinna area. The army engineer regiment was still in Sperenberg up to 26 September. The 9th Mechanized Division was at the Forst Tauer training grounds prior to 19 September. Nine shipments with troops and tanks of the 9th Mechanized Division returned from Jueterbog to their posts on 28 and 29 September.

5. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army:

- a. 6th Guards Mechanized Division: Prior to 26 September most of the units of the division were still located at their posts. The holding of an officers' meeting in Eberswalde on the morning of 2 October may indicate an impending exercise.
- b. 25th Tank Division: The bulk of the division was in the Templin area prior to 23 September. Elements of the engineer battalion went in one shipment from Templin to Ferchland-Elbe on 24 September while two shipments went in the same direction on 25 September. On 27 September, one train was dispatched from Prenzlau to Haldensleben.
- c. 7th Guards Mechanized Division: After the completion of fall exercises on 23 September, major elements of the division returned to Frankfurt/Oder by road from the Lieberose area and by rail from the Cottbus area between 23 and 26 September. On 25 September, elements of the 24th Guards Mechanized Regiment returned to Berlin-Karlshorst in one shipment.
- d. 10th Guards Tank Division: After the completion of exercises on 25 September, elements of the division returned by rail and road from the Beeskow-Grunow area to Krampnitz and Potsdam.

6. Third Shock Army:

- a. Large-Scale Exercise of IX Rifle Corps: Between 25 and 27 September, corps troops and the bulk of the two divisions of the corps moved on more than 40 trains from their quartering area to the Wiesenburg-Belzig-Brueck assembly area. These units were reinforced by army troops arriving in five shipments from the Vinzelberg area southwest of Stendal and by elements of the 34th Artillery Division arriving in four shipments from Potsdam. During the afternoon of 25 September, wheeled elements of the 94th Guards Rifle Division, coming from Ludwigslust and Perleberg passed eastward through Magdeburg. Elements of the 25th Guards RL Brigade with eight M-13 rocket launchers and 16 rocket launchers of a new type were observed moving to the assembly area by road on 26 September. Troops of the 3rd Guards AT Brigade with 10 x 100 mm AT guns were observed enroute to the area on 27 September. Preparations for the establishment of fuel supply bases were made in the Stuelper Forest east of Jueterbog between 12 and 22 September. The observation of traffic guides and heavy vehicular traffic in the Burg-Genthin-Tangerhuetten area on 27 September indicated that the exercise went in a northwesterly direction across the Elbe. Major tank movements were observed in the Genthin-Stendal area on 1 October.
- b. Dispositions and Movements: Only rear details remained in Camps Jaevenitz, Born and Huetten in Letzling Heath on 30 September. The kasernes in Hillersleben were not yet occupied to capacity. Two shipments with elements of the 3rd Guards AAA Division went from Wustrow to Magdeburg between 14 and 21 September. Elements of the tank and SP Regiment of the 94th Guards Rifle Division which had come in one shipment from Schwerin, were identified in Dranse between 18 and 23 September. AAA units of the 18th Mechanized Division went in two shipments from Wustrow to Dranse on 20 September.

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7. Eighth Guards Army:

- a. Exercises: Troops began to assemble for fall exercises in the area south of the Jena-Weimar-Gotha railroad line after 20 September. The exercises probably began on 26 or 27 September. In this connection the following shipments were observed on the dates indicated:

18 September: unloading of engineers with billeting equipment in Weimar.

19 September: three shipments passing eastward through Weimar.

22 September: three shipments passing eastward through Weimar including one with heavy artillery; one shipment with a tank unit going through Weimar enroute toward Gera; one shipment with an anti-tank unit passing eastward through Erfurt.

23 September: one shipment of the 43rd Guards Army Artillery Brigade with 14 gun howitzers was observed in Arnstadt.

25 September: ten troop trains passed through Gotha enroute toward Georgenthal northwest of Ohrdruf.

On 21 September, engineer, artillery and AA troops with 25 field howitzers, ten heavy AT guns and 150 motor vehicles were observed in the Ichtershausen area southwest of Ohrdruf. Tank exercises were observed in the Erfurt area on 27 September.

- b. Dispositions: The 91st Army Signal Regiment was identified in Weimar on 19 September while the 446th Signal Battalion was absent from its post. Both army artillery brigades were no longer in Altenburg on 22 September. The corps artillery brigades were identified in Gera and Merseburg on 25 and 19 September respectively. The occupation of the Kindel troop training grounds remained unchanged on 22 September. Loadings are allegedly to start there on 10 October. The Soviet garrisons in Plauen were still occupied to capacity on 25 September.

8. Fourth Artillery Corps:

- a. Elements of the 34th Artillery Division returned to Potsdam from exercises in Altengrabow and in the Cottbus-Lieberose area on 25 and 26 September. The return of elements of the 65th Mortar Brigade and the 18th Howitzer Brigade of the 6th Artillery Division from Altengrabow to Rathenow took place between 26 and 28 September. The 124th Heavy Howitzer Brigade was expected to depart from Brandenburg for exercises after 30 September.
- b. The following shipments of AA units were noted: one shipment of the 2nd Guards AAA Division from Wustrow to Wuensdorf on 23 September and two shipments on 28 September; five shipments of the 6th Guards AAA Division from Wustrow to Chemnitz and one to Aue on 27 and 28 September and one shipment with elements of the 32nd AAA Division from Wustrow to Kuestrin on 17 September. Other elements of the division returned to Frankfurt/Oder on 20 September. Troops of the division left Frankfurt/Oder and Kuestrin, presumably for exercises, on 25 and 26 September.

9. GSFG Troops:

Elements of the 36th Bridge Building Regiment went from Magdeburg to Kummersdorf in one shipment on 14 September. The unit's installation in Magdeburg was only lightly occupied prior to 25 September.

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B. KVP Developments

1. Disposition:

The engineer and signal battalions and one infantry regiment of the Schwerin Division were absent from their posts in Schwerin and Sternbuchholz between 2 and 22 September. The fall inspection of the Prenzlau Division took place between 13 and 25 September. The divisional headquarters, the headquarters of the tank and artillery regiments and the 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments of the Prenzlau Division, a total of 1800 men, were engaged in exercises in the Gross Schoenebeck area between 13 and 17 September. Forty percent of the Altwarp AAA Regiment were still engaged in harvesting crops on 20 September. The fall inspection of the 2nd Mechanized Regiment of the Potsdam Division took place on 15 September. Troops returned from the Kliest training grounds to Oranienburg on 26 and 27 September. The majority of the KVP troops stationed in Oranienburg are still engaged in harvesting.

2. Miscellaneous:

More than 120 recruits arrived at the Oranienburg Concentration Camp between 1 and 12 September. The 2nd Infantry Regiment of the Prenzlau Division received 140 recruits between 1 and 14 September. The discharge of personnel with three years of service is to begin in mid-October. Fifteen percent, approximately 200 men, of the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the Prenzlau Division, are scheduled to be discharged. The equipment and motor vehicle holdings of the Prenzlau Division have been brought up to authorized strength since early September.

Comment: The Soviet fall exercises are being conducted at a reinforced divisional level by the mechanized armies and at a corps level by the rifle armies. The fall inspections, discharge of personnel with three years of service and the arrival of recruits indicate the end of KVP summer training.

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